



British Royal Mint piece.

New dollar coin may end buck passing

By Roger Boye

Several more lawmakers are backing legislation calling for new \$1 coins to replace \$1 bills.

"The proposal has generated a lot of support," said James Benfield, executive director of a lobbying group that favors a dollar coin. "People are coming to realize that the country is paying a big price for an inefficient system [of paper \$1 bills]."

As of March 3, at least 52 members of Congress had "signed on" as co-sponsors of the legislation, including Sen. Alan Dixon (D., Ill.). Many of the proponents believe that Uncle Sam would save at least \$50 million a year in the cost of making money because a coin should last in circulation for at least 20 years, while an average paper dollar wears out in 18 months.

The proposals in Washington provide for an 11-sided, gold-colored coin so that consumers could quickly identify it. Earlier this decade, the Susan B. Anthony dollar failed to gain acceptance, in part because people confused it with a quarter.

●The British Royal Mint is accepting orders for the United Kingdom's 1988-dated standard coinage. Prices range from \$4.95 for an uncirculated "round pound" in a presentation folder to \$39.75 for a seven-coin proof set in a leather case.

For more information, call 800-221-1215 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. The ordering address is British Royal Mint, c/o Barclays Bank of New York, N. A., Box 2570, New York, N. Y. 10164-1060.